



Getting there

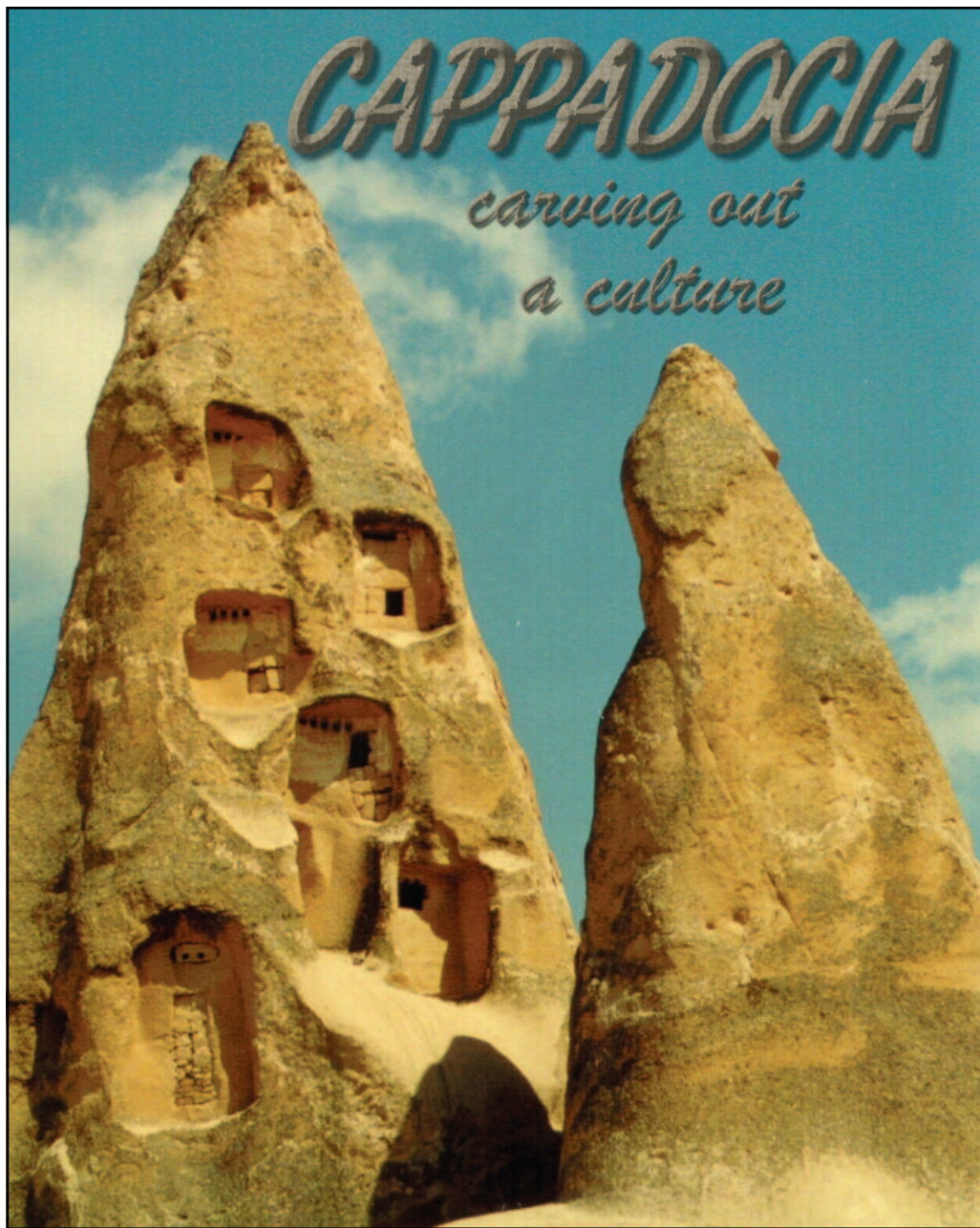
Traveling to Cappadocia is relatively simple and can be a pleasant experience due to the attractive mountainous terrain en route.

To get to the main sight-seeing area from Incirlik, go right on E-5 and head west through Adana. Turn right on Highway 25 heading to Ankara and continue traveling northwesterly until turning right on Highway 805 to Nigde. After Nigde, take Highway 765 north to Nevsehir, which is the principal city near some of Cappadocia's most popular attractions.

From Nevsehir, travelers should head east about 12 kilometers where they can travel several roads that will take them to the fairy chimneys, the Goreme museum and other attractions. Local tours leave from Nevsehir and follow the main road of Nevsehir/Urgup.

The underground city in Derinkuyu is located about 30 kilometers south of Nevsehir on Highway 765. Travelers can stop there en route to Nevsehir, or on the way back home.

Local tour agencies conduct organized visits to the region and provide transportation.



Stephanie Langton

The unique fairy chimneys, cone- and mushroom-shaped stone dwellings, dominate the Cappadocia landscape and provided living quarters for early residents.

By TSgt. Jesse Hall

Public Affairs

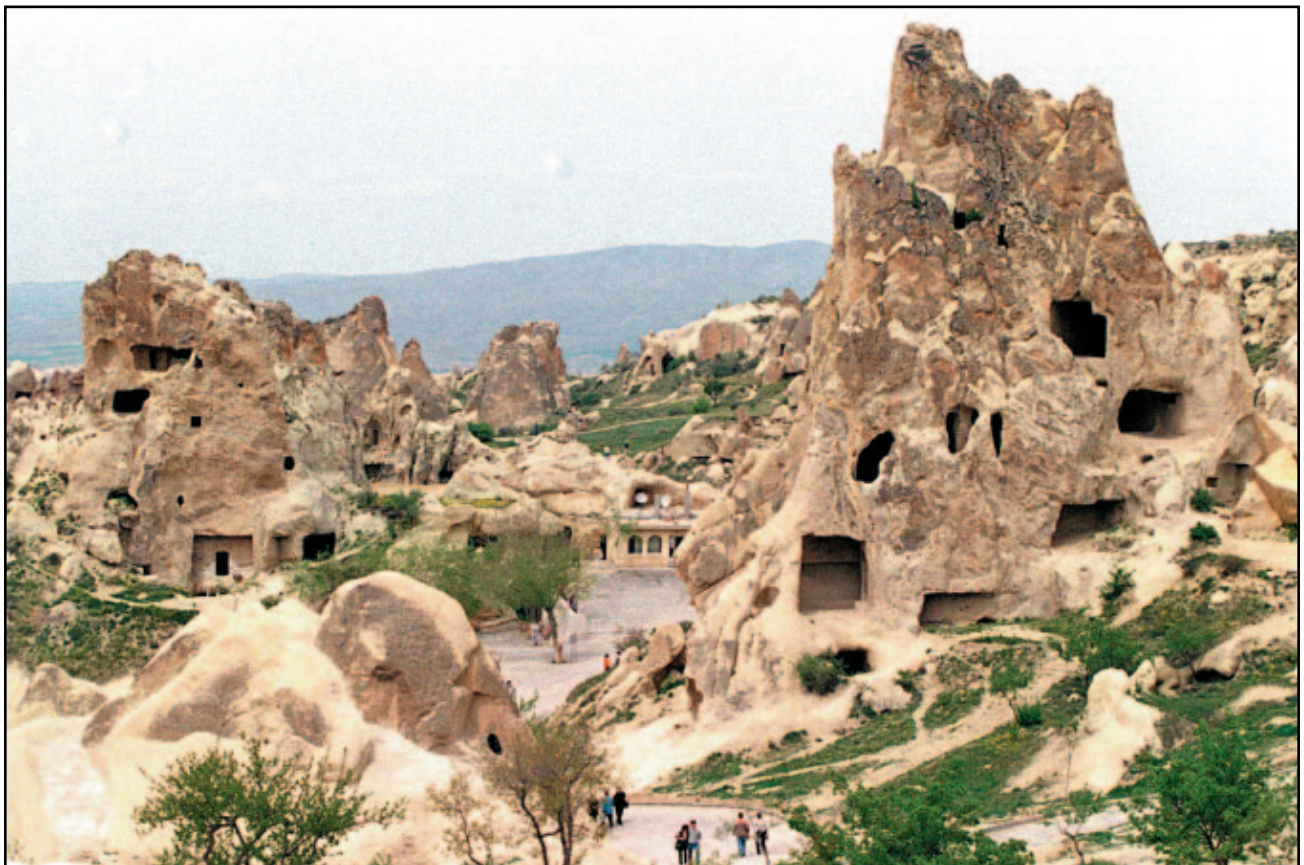
With its enchanting valleys and incredibly unique rock formations, it's easy to see why Turkey's Cappadocia region is one of the world's seven natural wonders.

Lying in the heart of Turkey, about four hours north of Incirlik, the region boasts an artistic landscape formed by thousands of years of volcanic and earthquake activity and erosion. These forces have created a visual

feast for tourists and naturalists alike.

Some of the main natural attractions include the fairy chimneys, large rock structures with cone- or mushroom-shaped tops, and the Kizilirmak Valley, which features yellow, pink and gray slopes with dove houses carved into the soft rock.

Besides its natural features, the region has a significant historical and religious heritage as well. This is seen especially at the museum near the village of Goreme. The site contains remains of a Christian community that carved out churches and living quarters



TSgt. Jesse Hall

The Goreme museum is the site where a Christian community lived in these rock formations.

from the area's cliffs, starting about the 7th century.

Most of the churches still contain early paintings, or frescoes, depicting the lives and activities of Jesus Christ and his followers. Unfortunately, some frescoes have been damaged by vandals.

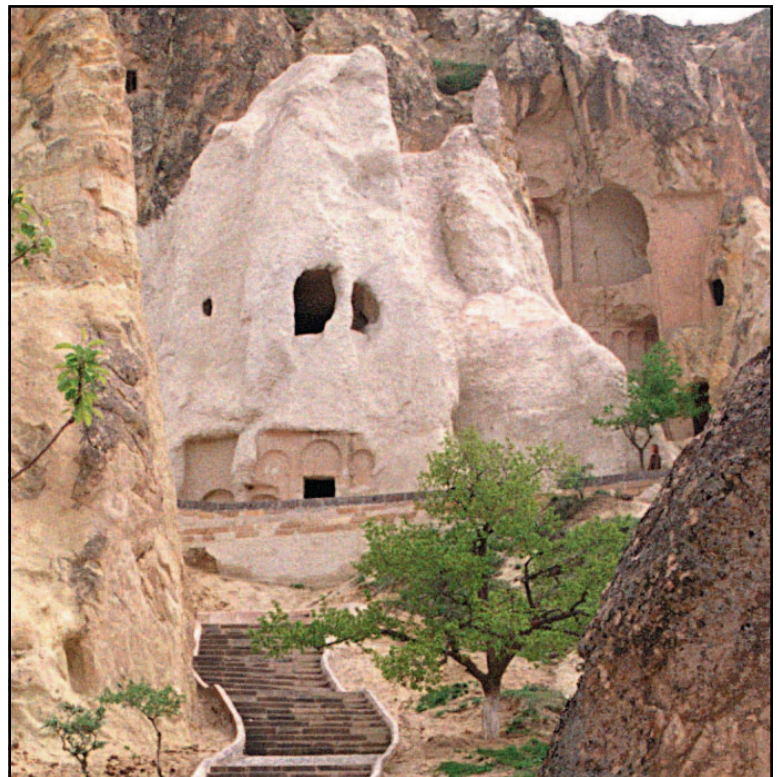
The largest church in the museum is the Tokali Church. The colorful frescoes in this church are probably some of the best preserved, and they reportedly date back to the 10th century.

Though Tokali Church is carved into the side of a cliff, it almost has the feel of a modern religious facility.

Early Christians also worshipped and lived in the region's underground cities. Cappadocia has a massive collection of underground cities with two, Kaymakli and Derinkuyu, open to the public.

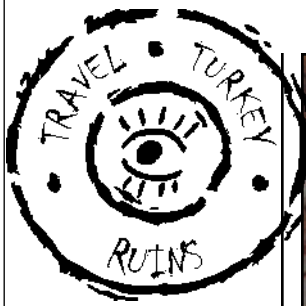
Carved out of rock, the cities protected early Christians from religious persecution and Arab raids.

The Derinkuyu site is quite extensive and extends eight or nine stories under the earth. It's estimated that 10,000 people could've lived in the city. ☼



TSgt. Jesse Hall

Churches hollowed out of rock like this one are common in the Goreme natural museum.



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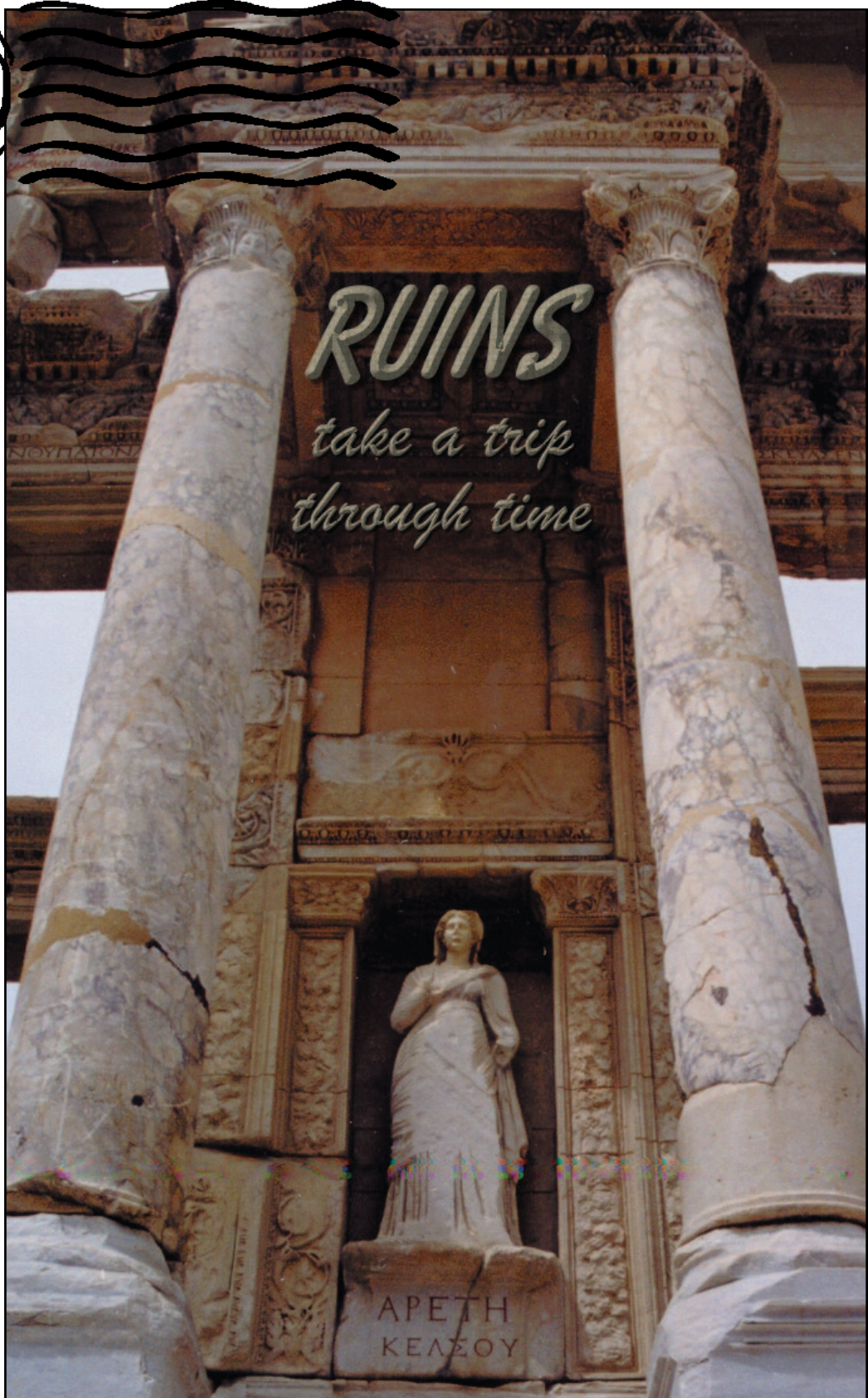
One thing about Turkey is that you can barely step out the front gate without falling over some ruins.

This country is bursting at the seams with fascinating ancient sites.

There are too many sites to give detailed directions on how to get there, so the best advice is to ask someone who has been here awhile, or ask a tour agency.

For example, the coastal ruins of Side, with the Mediterranean Sea as an azure backdrop, leaves no one questioning why Cleopatra and Mark Antony chose this site for a romantic tryst.

Whether it's a day or week, if you're by yourself or with family, seeing the sites in Turkey is inexpensive and fun.



Arete, one of the Greek Virtues named for goodness, graces the front of the Library of Celsus at Ephesus.

Capt. Max Torrens



Capt. Max Torrens

Intricate carvings decorate this domed niche in Side, which probably housed copies of classical Greek statues.



Col. Larry Van Buren

People rest on the seats of the theater at Ephesus. Reconstructed by the Romans between 41 and 117, it is still used for performances because of its excellent acoustics.



Capt. Max Torrens

Just about 50 yards from the sea, the large open space of the State Agora is a great place to take pictures of the finely detailed columns of this ruin in Side.



Photos by Col. Larry Van Buren

Ruins of an ancient library are part of the remains of a Roman-era healing center near Bergama.



Ephesus offers a spectacular collection of ruins like the one shown above.

**Testimony of
past glory,
Romanesque
ruins dominate
ancient Ephesus.**





SrA. Martie Capoeman

Cleopatra's Gate is located on the west side of Tarsus, a city that traces its roots close to 5,500 B.C. The gate sits in the middle of the main road through the city. It dates back roughly to the 2nd century.



SrA. Martie Capoeman

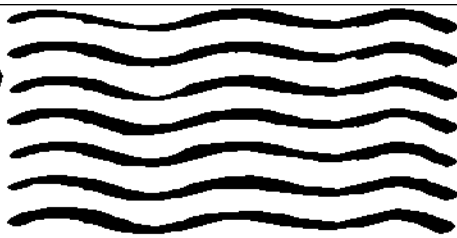
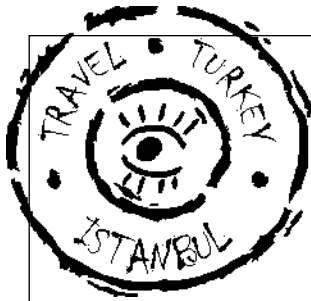


Col. Larry Van Buren

(Left) Children explore ruins in Tarsus. (Above) More scenes from Ephesus, (Right) and Bergama.



Col. Larry Van Buren



Artists replicate traditional patterns in plates from long ago.



ISTANBUL
capturing a sunset

Photos by TSgt. Karen Pettit

The evening sun silhouettes one of the 11,000 mosques dotted throughout Istanbul.

By TSgt. Karen Pettit

Public Affairs

Standing on the bridge that connects the province of Taksim to the heart of Istanbul, I leaned my camera onto the ledge to set up what would hopefully be the shot of my life.

This shot would be worthy of magazines or books ... but that was before I realized that the sun wasn't going down behind the famous Blue and Red Mosques as it did in all the tourist books I had seen.

So, on this crisp May evening, I settled for the largest mosque in Turkey—Suliyeman the Magnificent—located along the Golden Horn.

Looking for this sunset took me to the hills of Euyup the night before to a quaint café called Pierre Loti, named after a French poet who loved and lived in Istanbul at the turn of the century. Deep inside the Golden Horn, the view was worth the \$8 taxi ride. However, it turned chilly, there were high winds, and the sun had already set behind a hill.

Another possible sunset site is located at a park in Ulus,

which sits high overlooking the Bosphorus. There, you can see both bridges linking Asia and Europe. Because the Bosphorus is the seaway from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmaras, there were hundreds of boats going back and forth—Russian cargo ships, Turkish fishing boats, luxurious yachts and sea ferrys.

I could have sat at this park all day. I looked at all the homes that dotted the hillsides, both rich and poor, and thought that no matter how you lived, you at least had this wonderful view.

But, I really wanted the oranges and pinks of the evening sun to silhouette the outline of Turkey's Muslim domes and minarets. That, to me, captured the essence of all I wanted to say about this place of a thousand stories.

As I toured Topkapi Palace, scenes of life during the Ottoman Empire unfolded in my mind—its riches, its sultans and barbaric laws, its harems, servants and eunuchs. The displays of china, jewels, furniture inlaid with mother of pearl, weapons and clothing numbed me when I realized this was only a small portion of their wealth.

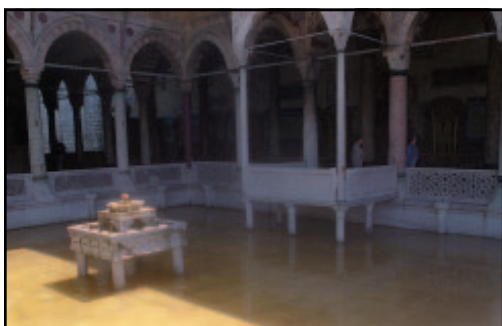
The craftsmanship of the Turkish people comes alive in



(Left) Beautiful homes line the Bosphorus. Many of the older homes are under renovation.

(Below Left) An empty pool in the Topkapi Palace where the Sultan looked out over his kingdom.

(Below right) A craftsman sharpens his knife. People can still get the mix of old and new in Istanbul.



the exquisite tiles that adorn the Sultanahmet Mosque—named the Blue Mosque because of the tiles. Somebody drilled a gazillion holes in the roof to hang these round, cast iron lights that rest only about 8 feet off the floor. Too bad, because it's a bit distracting as you scan the ceilings, windows and walls—all of which are covered with some type of artwork.

Then, I'm wondering what were they thinking when they turned St. Sophia, originally a Christian church, into an odd union of Islamic calligraphy, billboards and minarets. It's one of the oldest structures in Istanbul and looks worn with its gray and dusty gold trim.

Just trying to grasp Istanbul, its rhythm and all its changes for good and bad, takes more than a three-day visit or a few trips to the library. All you can hope for is a glimpse. A small piece. A corner lot.

Fish markets and seagulls. Merchants selling vacuum cleaner bags. Boys playing with tops or shining shoes. Asian and



European tourists. Cats and dogs and more cats. Soldiers and sailors. Traffic and trash. Titanic-size cruise ships and row boats. An evening light show at the Blue Mosque. Flowers and faces. Ceramics and cobblestones. This is my Istanbul, and now all I need is a sunset. I always knew that if I shot a whole roll of film, one of them would turn out. So, I clicked off about 30 pictures as the sun drifted slowly down. I raised my head from the viewfinder, closed my eyes and smiled. ☺



Getting there

Plane fares are about \$70 one way. Catching a taxi to the mosque/Grand Bazaar area costs only \$12. Be sure to get a driver who charges on the meter and doesn't try to bargain with you. I've heard of taxi fares being as much as \$30.

Hotels and hotel prices vary. A travel agency in Adana got me a room for only \$55, located right in the heart of Istanbul. If you stay there, you can walk to most places and taxi rides stay cheap. I got through three days on \$160 (a few souvenirs included).

A suggested tour routine can start with visiting the Blue and Red Mosques, Topkapi Palace, the underground Cistern and the Grand Covered Bazaar. Evening trips to the Taksim province will give you plenty of choices for food, drinks and dance. The next day you should definitely take the trip up the Bosphorus on the sea bus for only \$5. It stops near the Black Sea at a fishing village, where you can eat lunch. After the trip, you won't have time to see any other museums, so it's a good chance to shop again or rest. If you can stay a third **(continued Page 18)**